Appl. No. 09/512,754

Attorney Docket No. 005586-20033 (81784.0025)

Amdt. Dated: November 20, 2003

Customer No.: 26021

Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2003

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims**:

1. (Currently Amended): A solid-state imaging apparatus, comprising:

a solid-state image sensor having a plurality of light receiving elements arrayed thereon, for accumulating in each of the plurality of light receiving elements information charges according to a received object image;

a driving circuit for discharging the information charges accumulated in each of the plurality of light receiving elements of the solid-state image sensor, and for outputting, after a predetermined period, information charges accumulated in each of the plurality of light receiving elements whereby an image signal according to the information charges is obtained;

first exposure information generating circuit for detecting a level of the image signal in a predetermined cycle to generate first exposure information which is increased or decreased based on a detection result;

second exposure information generating circuit for calculating second exposure information based on the <u>current</u> level of the image signal;

selecting circuit for selecting either the first exposure information or the second exposure information; and

timing control circuit for setting discharge timing and output timing to the driving circuit;

wherein

the selecting circuit selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period, and subsequently selects the first exposure information.

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(Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 1, 2. wherein the selection circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to rise of power.

3. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selecting circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to a trigger given at a desired timing.

4. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus, comprising:

a solid-state image sensor having a plurality of light receiving elements arrayed thereon, for accumulating in each of the plurality of light receiving elements information charges according to a received object image;

a driving circuit for discharging the information charges accumulated in each of the plurality of light receiving elements of the solid-state image sensor, and for subsequently resuming accumulation of the information charges in each of the plurality of light receiving elements to read, after a period according to exposure information, the information charges accumulated whereby an image signal according to the information charges is obtained;

a level detection circuit for detecting a brightness level of an image based on the image signal;

first exposure information generating circuit for comparing the brightness level and a predetermined brightness reference value according to suitable exposure condition to generate first exposure information which is increased or decreased based on a comparison result;

second exposure information generating circuit for calculating second exposure information according to a predetermined target brightness level based on a current brightness level and current exposure information;

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selecting circuit for selecting either the first exposure information of the second exposure information; and

timing control circuit for setting a discharge timing and a read timing for the information charges to be discharged and read from the driving circuit, respectively;

wherein

the selection circuit selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period, and subsequently selects the first exposure information.

- 5. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the selection circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to rise of power.
- 6. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the selecting circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to a trigger given at a desired timing.
- 7. (Currently Amended): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 2 4, wherein the second exposure information generating circuit continuously generates the second exposure information for every vertical scanning period during at least the predetermined period.
- 8. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first exposure information generating circuit updates the first exposure information every vertical scanning period.